

Foundation Letter

Date

Mr. John Doe
Title
Organization
Address 1
Address 2
City, State ZIP

Mentoring: an age-old practice that pairs a young person with a caring adult who offers encourage and support and helps the young person succeed in life.

Dear Mr. Doe,

Mentoring works. We know this intuitively. We know this through research and through measured outcomes. And we also know that mentoring works the *best* when members of the community come together to invest in the future of their youth.

In her book, *Stand by Me: The Risks and Rewards of Mentoring Today's Youth*, Dr. Jean Rhodes of the University of Massachusetts concludes that mentors influence young people in three important ways, by: 1) enhancing social skills and emotional well-being, 2) improving cognitive skills through dialogue and listening and 3) serving as a role model and advocate. And studies by the Carnegie Corporation note that when asked what teens wanted most in their free time, one of the most frequent responses was “long talks with trusting and trustworthy adults who know a lot about the world and who like young people.”

And we have more good news to share: adults would like to be mentors. In 2002, a national mentoring poll conducted by MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership showed that 57 million adults would consider becoming mentors if they had access to an array of support services and had the ability within their schedules to commit. (To view the poll online, visit www.mentoring.org/poll.)

However, our [STATE/CITY] needs leaders for the mentoring movement in the foundation community. Without support for [STATE/LOCAL] programs, good work begun goes unfinished. Programs are forced to close their doors, volunteers are turned away, and, worst of all, our children lose.

I would like to talk with you more about local mentoring opportunities and how together, in partnership, we can make a tremendous impact on the young people in our community. I will follow up soon with a call to your office.

Sincerely,

Name
Title

PS – F.Y.I., attached is a vignette about [MENTOR NAME AND MENTEE NAME], a real-life pair from [CITY, STATE]. Together, they prove that *mentoring works*.